

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of: Andrea D. Branch, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/719,277  
(US National stage of PCT/US99/12929)

I.A. Filing Date: June 9, 1999  
Filing Date: April 13, 2001

For: *Novel Hepatitis C Virus Peptides and Uses Thereof*

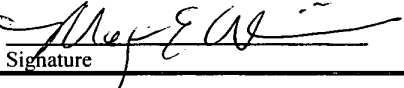
Attorney Docket No.: RII-003CPUS

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: D. Wortman

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 354 227 227 US Deposit September 8, 2003  
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Signature

Megan E. Williams  
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**STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE**  
**AUGUST 21, 2003 INTERVIEW**

Dear Sir:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview that took place on 21 August, 2003 between Applicants' Attorney, Megan Williams, and Examiner D. Wortman.

In the interview all of the pending claims were discussed. The Examiner indicated that claims limited to detection methods involving HCV core +1 reading frame polypeptides might be allowable. No agreement was reached with respect to allowable subject matter during the interview. Examiner Wortman further indicated that she would issue a written action in the case.

### CONCLUSION

If a telephone conversation with applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the examiner is urged to call applicant's attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan E. Williams  
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Attorney for Applicants

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Dated: September 8, 2003